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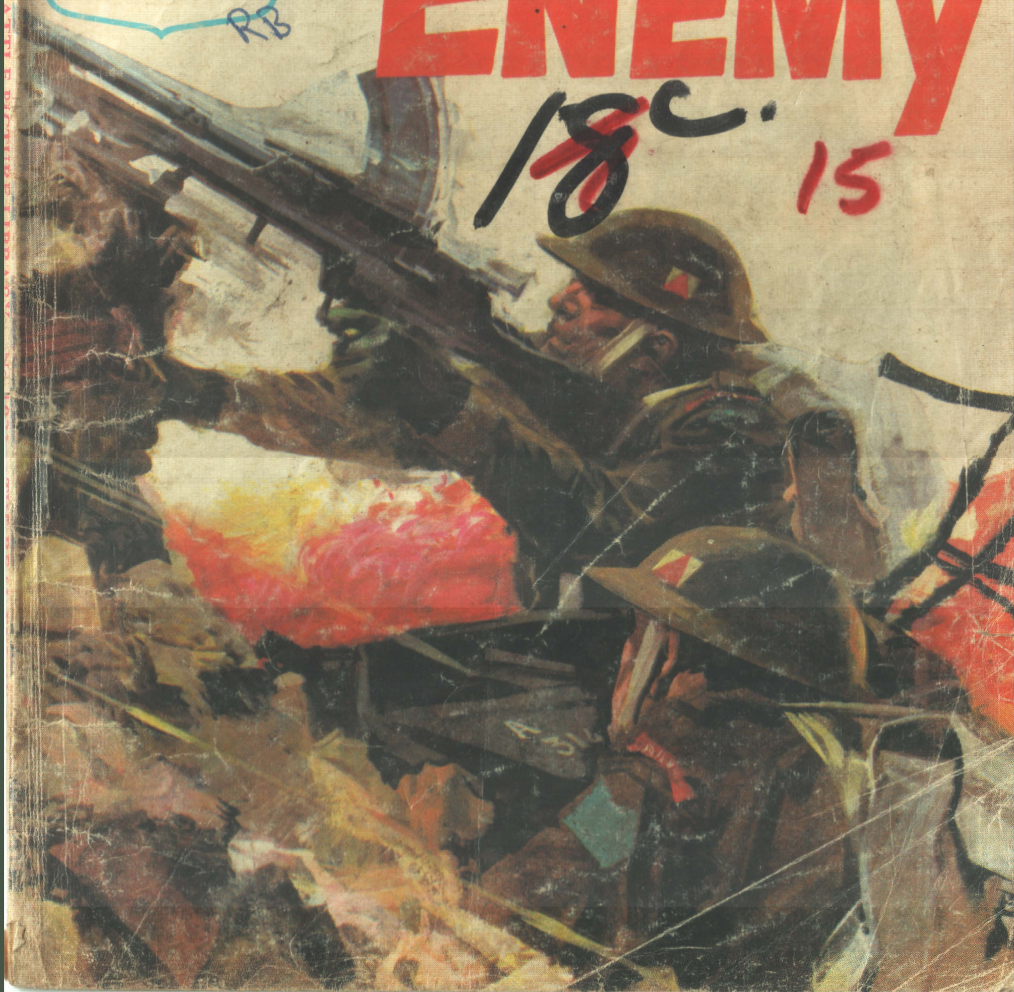
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RB

Dec
**The REAL
ENEMY**

18c.

15



TERRIFIC HOLIDAY VALUE



BATTLE
PICTURE LIBRARY

**HOLIDAY
SPECIAL**

25p

THE ROAR OF
THE GUNS...
THE BITE OF
COLD STEEL...
in 192 pages
of
super battle
action!

**ALSO
ON SALE
NOW!**

THE REAL ENEMY

THE ETRAY SECTOR OF THE WESTERN FRONT, 1916. A BRITISH FIELD COMPANY, ROYAL ENGINEERS, UNDER THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER, MAJOR JOHN GREY, HAD FINISHED MINING AN IMPORTANT BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER ETRAY.

ZERO MINUS TWO MINUTES. SAR'NT, CHECK WITH H.Q., THAT THERE ARE NO MORE TROOPS TO COME OVER THE BRIDGE!

CAN'T GET THROUGH, SIR! WIRE MUST HAVE BEEN CUT BY ARTILLERY FIRE!

Chapter I. *HOSTILE RECEPTION*

THERE WAS NO TIME TO WASTE. THE GERMAN ADVANCE FORCES WERE CLOSE - AND THEY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO CROSS THE BRIDGE.



THE FUSES WERE LIT AND BURNING - AND THEN A RAGGED COLUMN OF FRENCH TROOPS MARCHED ON TO THE BRIDGE.



JOHN GREY STARTED FORWARD, THRUSTING HIS SERGEANT ASIDE...

YOU'LL BE KILLED AS WELL, SIR!

THEY'VE GOT TO BE STOPPED!



RUSHING TOWARDS THE BRIDGE JOHN WAVED AND SHOUTED LIKE A MAN POSSESSED.

ARRETEZ VOUS! GO BACK! THE BRIDGE IS MINED!

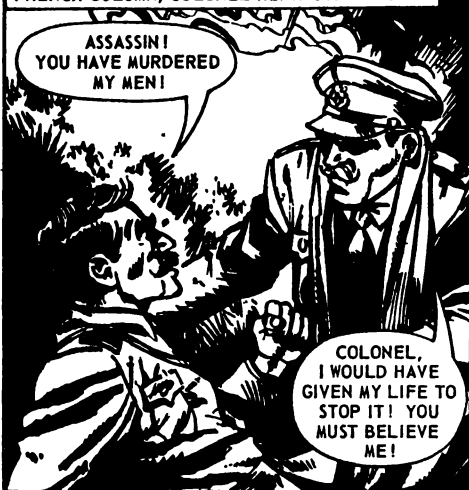


THE FRENCH OFFICER AT THE HEAD OF HIS TROOPS HESITATED - AND THEN THE FUSES BURNT OUT...

AAAGH!



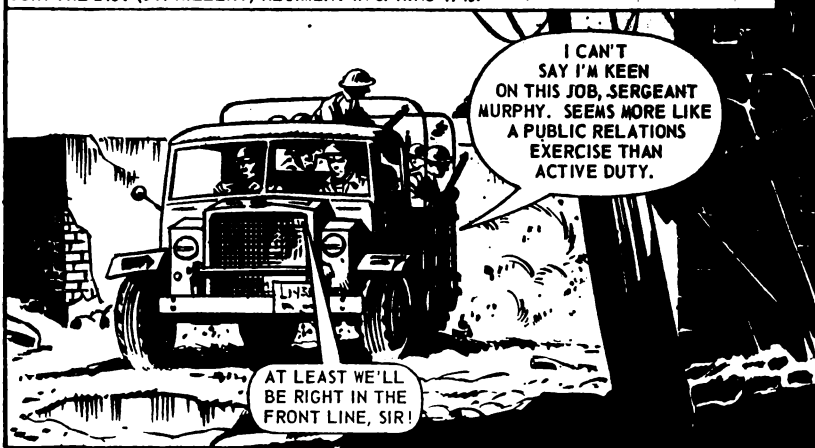
AMONGST THE MORTALLY WOUNDED THEY FOUND THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE LUCKLESS FRENCH COLUMN, COLONEL HENRI ST. HILLERY.



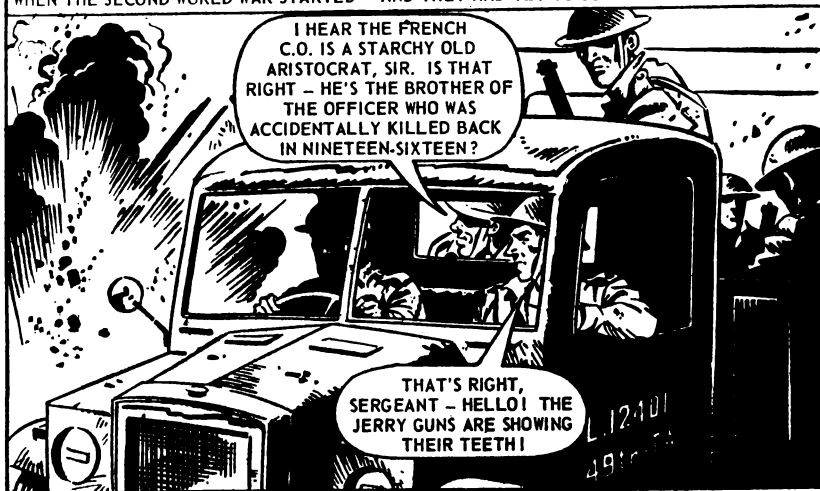
MY STARS!
IF ONLY HE
AND HIS MEN
HAD BEEN A
FEW MINUTES
EARLIER OR
LATER!



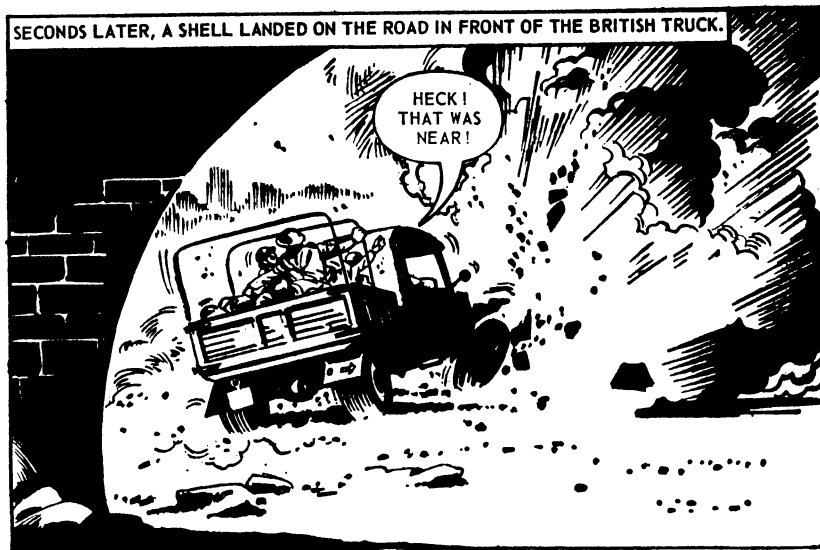
THE TRAGIC INCIDENT WAS NEVER FORGOTTEN AND IN AN EFFORT TO HEAL THE BREACH BETWEEN THE UNITS CONCERNED, A DETACHMENT OF BRITISH ENGINEERS WAS SENT TO JOIN THE 21ST (ST. HILLERY) REGIMENT IN SPRING 1940.



LIEUTENANT STEVE THOMPSON AND HIS MEN HAD BELONGED TO THE TERRITORIAL ARMY WHEN THE SECOND WORLD WAR STARTED – AND THEY HAD YET TO SEE ACTION...



SECONDS LATER, A SHELL LANDED ON THE ROAD IN FRONT OF THE BRITISH TRUCK.



NONE OF THE MEN WAS HURT, BUT THE TRUCK'S STEERING WAS WRECKED.



THEY HAD MARCHED DOGGEDLY FOR SEVERAL WEARY MILES, WHEN SUDDENLY, AS THEY ROUNDED A BEND...



STEVE LOOKED FOR THE OWNER AS MURPHY TRIED THE STARTER-HANDLE, BUT THERE WAS NO-ONE ABOUT.



MURPHY OPENED THE BONNET OF THE OLD CAR AND STARTED TINKERING...

AS I
THOUGHT -
DIRTY PLUGS AND
POINTS. SHEER
NEGLECT!

IF YOU
CAN GET THIS
HEAP MOVING,
MURPHY, I THINK
WE'LL - ER -
BORROW
IT!



AFTER A FEW MINUTES' WORK, MURPHY TRIED AGAIN - AND THE ENGINE FIRED AT ONCE. THERE WAS STILL NO SIGN OF THE OWNER...

A BIT MORE
COMFORTABLE THAN
SHANKS'S PONY,
EH, SERGEANT?

CLIMB ABOARD,
YOU MEN - WE'VE
WASTED ENOUGH
TIME!

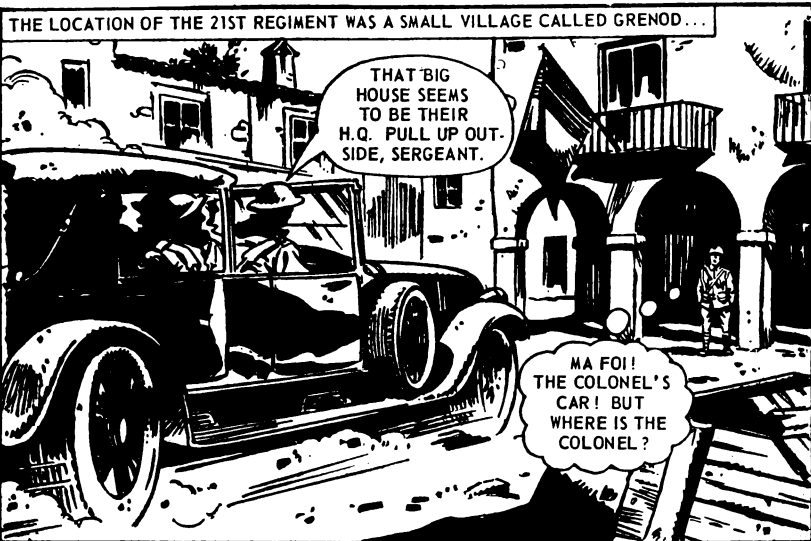


THE REMALT HAD NOT LONG MOVED OFF WITH ITS CARGO OF BRITISH SOLDIERS WHEN A FRENCH TRUCK DROVE UP TO WHERE IT HAD BEEN LEFT...

SACRE
BLEU! SOME
CRIMINAL HAS
STOLEN MY
REMALT WHILST I
WAS FETCHING
HELP AFTER IT
STALLED!

SEE,
MON COLONEL!
THERE ARE THE
CAR'S TRACKS IN THE
MUD! WE WILL
SOON CATCH
THEM!





AND THEN COLONEL ST. HILLERY ARRIVED, HIS FACE RED WITH ANGER...

PLACE THESE
THIEVES UNDER
CLOSE ARREST,
SERGEANT!

OUI, MON
COLONEL!

WHAT THE
BLAZES!



IT DID NOT HELP WHEN STEVE EXPLAINED
THAT THEY WERE THE ENGLISH UNIT WHO
HAD BEEN SENT TO JOIN THE TWENTY-
FIRST REGIMENT...

THE ATTACHMENT IS ENDED BEFORE IT
HAS BEGUN! YOU WILL BE RETURNED
TO YOUR UNIT WITH A FULL REPORT OF
THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

BUT,
COLONEL,
NO HARM
HAS BEEN
DONE!



THE LOCATION OF THE 21ST REGIMENT WAS A SMALL VILLAGE CALLED GRENOD...



STEVE EXPLAINED TO THE GOGGLING SENTRY WHAT HAD HAPPENED...



AND THEN COLONEL ST. HILLERY ARRIVED, HIS FACE RED WITH ANGER...





SO IT WAS SETTLED. BUT WHEN THE COLONEL SENT FOR STEVE LATER, HOWEVER, THE ENGINEER OFFICER REALISED THAT HE STILL HAD PLENTY OF PROBLEMS!



NOTHING THAT STEVE SAID COULD CONVINCE THE COLONEL THAT THE BRITISH SOLDIERS WERE ANYTHING BUT A LIABILITY...



THE COLONEL, HOWEVER, WAS NOT PREPARED TO ARGUE FURTHER. HE SUMMONED AND INTRODUCED HIS NEPHEW, CAPTAIN JACQUES ST. HILLERY, ADJUTANT OF THE REGIMENT.

MY FAMILY'S MILITARY TRADITION GOES BACK TO AGINCOURT, LIEUTENANT. I HOPE THAT JACQUES MAY CARRY IT ON AFTER ME. HE WILL LOOK AFTER YOU!

A PLEASURE, LIEUTENANT...



JACQUES ST. HILLERY SEEMED A VASTLY DIFFERENT CHARACTER TO HIS UNCLE...

I AM SORRY FOR THE COLONEL'S ATTITUDE. HE HAS FIXED IDEAS, ROOTED IN THE PAST.

I FEEL WE'D HAVE DONE MORE GOOD STAYING WITH THE B.E.F.



PLEASE DO AS MY UNCLE ASKS FOR A LITTLE WHILE. I AM SURE I CAN MAKE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND.

VERY WELL! IT'S NICE TO KNOW THAT ONE MEMBER OF THE ST. HILLERY FAMILY IS ON MY SIDE!



JACQUES EXPLAINED THAT HIS UNCLE DID NOT LIKE THE BRITISH ANYWAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO HIS BROTHER AND THE REGIMENT IN 1916.

IT IS REALLY
I WHO HAVE MORE
CAUSE TO HATE YOU FOR
IT WAS MY FATHER WHO WAS
KILLED. BUT I BEAR
NO GRUDGE.

THAT'S VERY
HANDSOME OF YOU!
WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN TO
MAKE THIS ATTACHMENT A
SUCCESS - IN SPITE OF
YOUR UNCLE!

NEXT DAY, STEVE STARTED HIS MEN ON A RIGOROUS TRAINING PROGRAMME.

SPEED IT UP
THERE, SERGEANT!
THE ENEMY WOULD HAVE
OCCUPIED THE ENTIRE
VILLAGE BEFORE YOU BLEW
UP THAT WALL!

WHAT DOES
HE EXPECT! WE'VE
CUT OUR DEMOLITION-TIME BY
HALF DURING THE LAST
THREE DAYS!

THEIR BATTLE TRAINING WAS JUST AS TOUGH. STEVE LED THEM HIMSELF.



THE SAPPERS WERE IN FIRST-CLASS SHAPE. THE NEXT THING WAS TO CONVINCE THE COLONEL OF THEIR WORTH WITH A SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION.



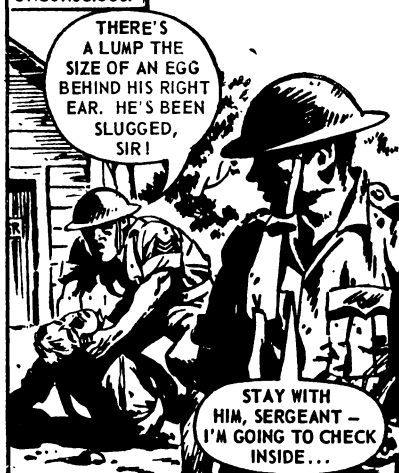
THE FOLLOWING DAY THEY TRAINED HARD. EVERYTHING WENT WELL, BUT AS THEY WALKED BACK TO THEIR BILLET ...



AS THEY NEARED THE HUT THEY SAW THE SENTRY, LYING NEAR THE DOOR...



THE MOMENT MURPHY EXAMINED SAPPER JOHNSTON, HE FOUND THAT HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS.



BUT THE SHADOWY FIGURE TURNED AND HURLED A RIFLE AT STEVE, CATCHING HIM IN THE CHEST.



STEVE DID NOT SEE THE MAN'S FACE AND WHEN THE SENTRY RECOVERED, HE TOLD HOW HE HAD BEEN STRUCK FROM BEHIND.



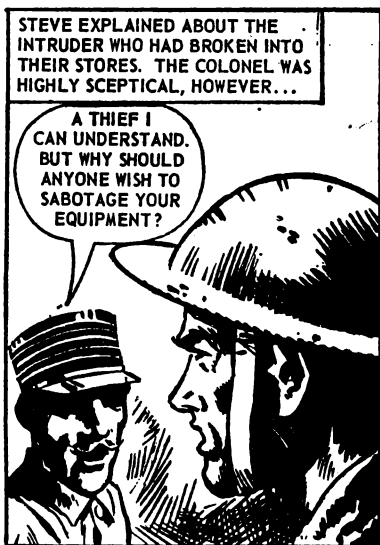
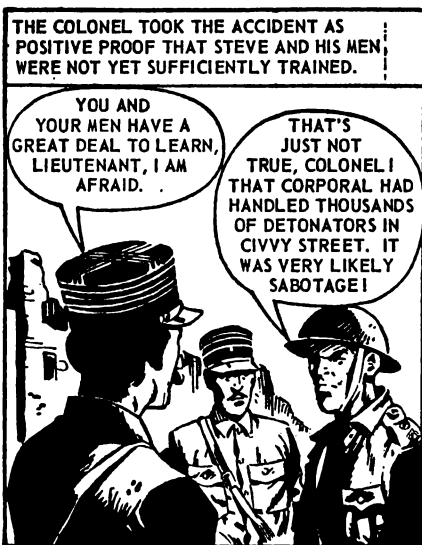
Chapter 2: *NIGHT MISSION*

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, STEVE PUT HIS MEN THROUGH THEIR PACES. IN SPITE OF HIMSELF, THE COLONEL WAS IMPRESSED...



SUDDENLY, HOWEVER, DISASTER OVERTOOK THE UNFORTUNATE CORPORAL.





SERGEANT MURPHY HAD HIS OWN THEORY ABOUT WHO HAD SABOTAGED THE DETONATOR...

COLONEL
ST. HILLERY
DOESN'T LIKE THE
BRITISH, DOES HE,
SIR? BELIEVES
THEY MURDERED
HIS BROTHER,
HE DOES!

YOU SURELY DON'T
THINK HE WOULD STOOP TO
COLD-BLOODED MURDER TO
AVENGE HIS BROTHER?

TWO DAYS LATER, A FRENCH PATROL WAS CROSSING NO MAN'S LAND, WHEN THEY CAME
UNDER INTENSE FIRE...

A...AH!

THOSE GERMAN
SWINE IN THAT
PILLBOX ARE PICKING US
OFF LIKE FLIES!
RETREAT!

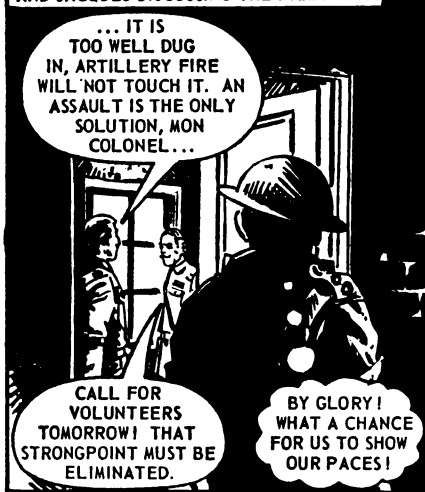
STEVE AND SERGEANT MURPHY, ON THEIR WAY TO CHECK THE GUARD ON THEIR STORES, SAW THE PATROL RETURN.



THEY'VE TAKEN
A HAMMERING!

IT'S THAT THERE
NEW PILLBOX THE GERMANS
HAVE PUT UP, SIR! DOMINATES
THE WHOLE AREA.

LATER, STEVE OVERHEARD THE COLONEL
AND JACQUES DISCUSSING THE PILLBOX...

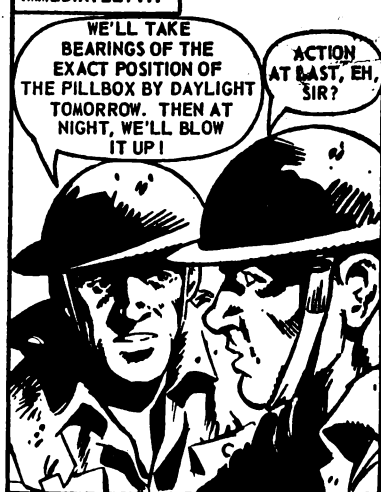


... IT IS
TOO WELL DUG
IN, ARTILLERY FIRE
WILL NOT TOUCH IT. AN
ASSAULT IS THE ONLY
SOLUTION, MON
COLONEL...

CALL FOR
VOLUNTEERS
TOMORROW! THAT
STRONGPOINT MUST BE
ELIMINATED.

BY GLORY!
WHAT A CHANCE
FOR US TO SHOW
OUR PACES!

STEVE SOUGHT OUT HIS SERGEANT
IMMEDIATELY...



WE'LL TAKE
BEARINGS OF THE
EXACT POSITION OF
THE PILLBOX BY DAYLIGHT
TOMORROW. THEN AT
NIGHT, WE'LL BLOW
IT UP!

ACTION
AT LAST, EH,
SIR?



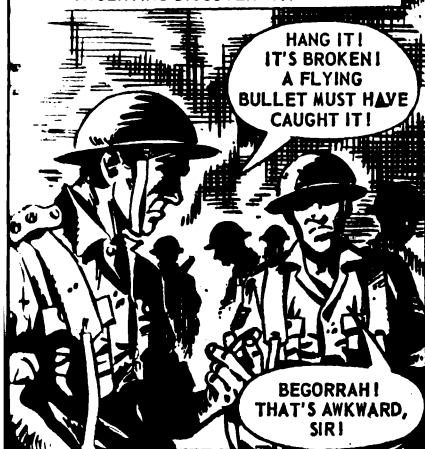
BULLETS WERE WHISTLING BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS OVER THE LIEUTENANT'S HEAD..
HE WAS AS NEAR AS HE DARED GET ...



IT WAS A GOOD THROW. THE CHARGE LANDED
AT THE BASE OF THE STRONGPOINT'S MASSIVE
CONCRETE WALL. THEN ...



AS STEVE REJOINED HIS MEN THE MIST WAS SWIRLING ABOUT THEM EVEN MORE THICKLY. STEVE TOOK OUT HIS COMPASS, BUT MADE A DISCONCERTING DISCOVERY...



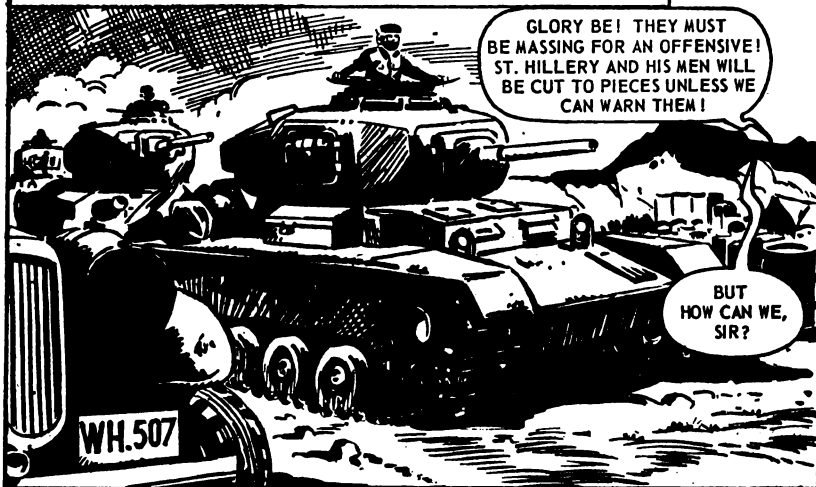
IT WAS SUICIDE TO WAIT OUT THERE UNTIL DAYLIGHT, SO STEVE LED THEM OFF IN WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE DIRECTION OF THE FRENCH LINES...



THEN THE MIST BEGAN TO LIFT – AND STEVE SUDDENLY REALISED WITH COLD HORROR THAT HE HAD MADE THE BIGGEST POSSIBLE MISTAKE...



AS THEY TRIED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO, MOONLIGHT BROKE THROUGH,
AND THEY REALLY SAW THE VAST CONCENTRATION OF GERMAN ARMOUR...



GLORY BE! THEY MUST
BE MASSING FOR AN OFFENSIVE!
ST. HILLERY AND HIS MEN WILL
BE CUT TO PIECES UNLESS WE
CAN WARN THEM!

BUT
HOW CAN WE,
SIR?

STEVE GLANCED AROUND THEM
DESPERATELY.



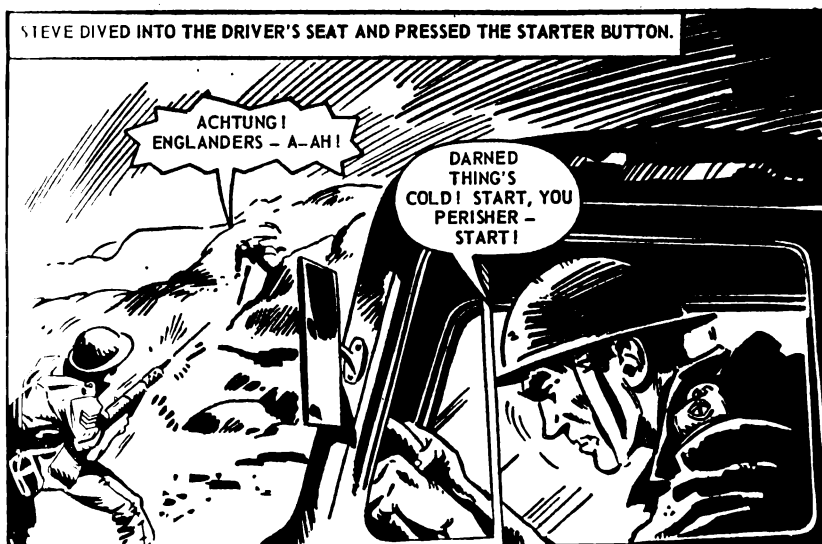
THAT
HALF-TRACK!
SUPPOSING WE
COULD TAKE
THAT...

THE VERY
THING, SIR!
WHAT ARE
WE WAITING
FOR...?

WITH BATED BREATH, STEVE LED HIS MEN
TOWARDS THE UNSUSPECTING GERMANS...



JUST
SIX MORE
YARDS...



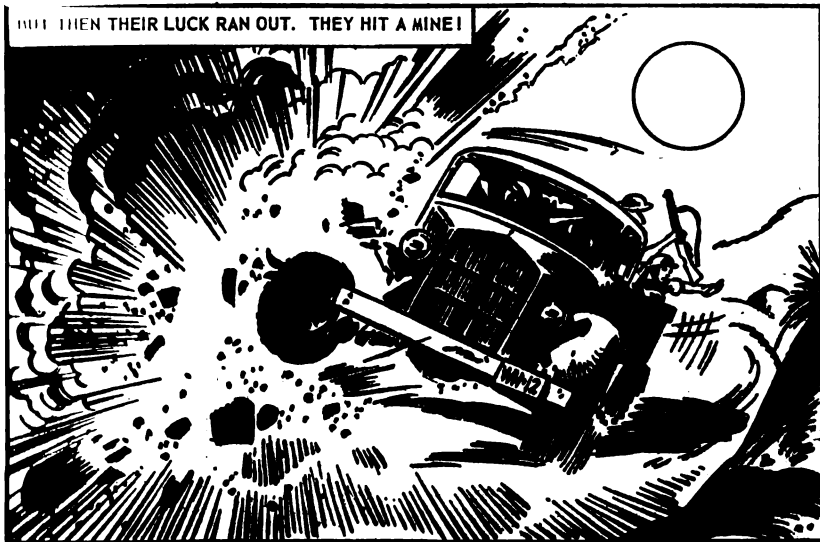
NOW THE ALARM WAS UP – AND CAPTURE SEEMED CERTAIN, FOR GERMANS WERE COMING FROM ALL DIRECTIONS. THEN SUDDENLY, THE ENGINE FIRED...



AMID A HAIL OF FIRE, STEVE DROVE STRAIGHT THROUGH THE BARBED-WIRED DEFENCES TOWARDS THE FRENCH LINES...



BUT THEN THEIR LUCK RAN OUT. THEY HIT A MINE!



MIRACULOUSLY, THEY WERE ALL UNHURT EXCEPT FOR SEVERE BRUISING. NOW, HOWEVER, CONCENTRATED MACHINE GUN FIRE OPENED UP ON THEM - FROM THE FRENCH.



THE FIRING CEASED AND A FRENCH PATROL CAME TOWARDS THEM. THE OFFICER WAS ASTOUNDED TO FIND HIMSELF CONFRONTED BY BRITISH SOLDIERS.



THE COLONEL RECEIVED THE BRITISH ENGINEER COLDLY, REFUSING TO LISTEN TO ANYTHING HE HAD TO SAY.



... AT A WORD FROM COLONEL ST. HILLERY, STEVE WAS HUSTLED OUT OF THE OFFICE...



AS A LAST HOPE, STEVE BEGGED TO SEE JACQUES ST. HILLERY AND THIS WAS GRANTED.



THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS FROM OUR PATROLS OF UNUSUAL ENEMY ACTIVITY. THE ENGLISHMAN IS A BUNGLING AMATEUR WHO HAS PANICKED AT HIS FIRST SIGHT OF THE ENEMY!

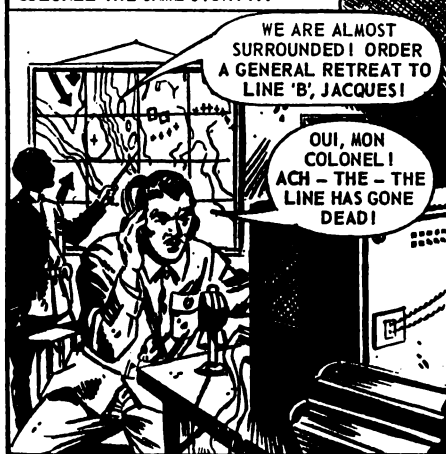


Chapter 3. *TRAITOR!*

DAWN PROVED THE COLONEL WRONG. STUKA DIVE-BOMBERS OPENED THE ASSAULT AND SOON, HIS MEN WERE HORRIFIED TO SEE A GREAT FORCE OF PANZERS CREEPING TOWARDS THEM...



OTHER SECTOR REPORTS TOLD THE COLONEL THE SAME STORY...



A SHOUT FROM A JUNIOR OFFICER DREW THE COLONEL OUTSIDE HIS HEADQUARTERS.



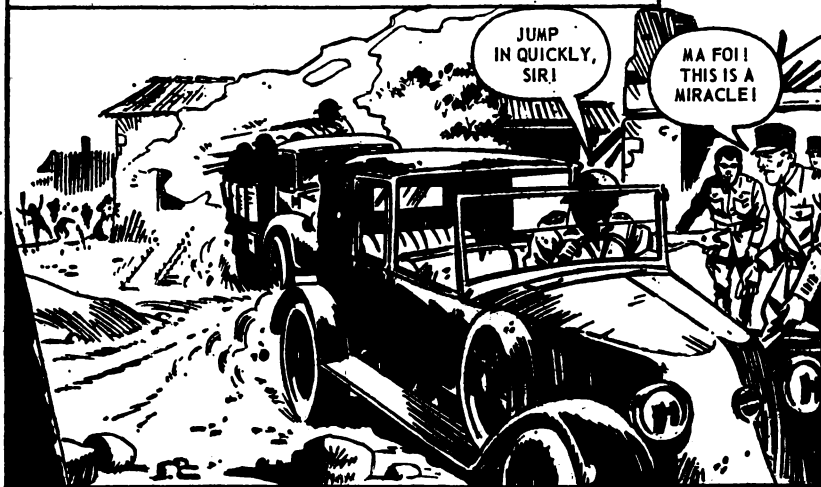
...BACK INSIDE, THE COLONEL STARTED TO STUFF CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INTO
HIS BAG. BUT THEN...



IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT THE ENEMY DIVE-BOMBERS INADVERTANTLY DID STEVE
THOMPSON AND HIS MEN A GOOD TURN, FOR A STRAY BOMB BLEW IN THE WALLS OF
THE COTTAGE WHERE THEY WERE BEING HELD.



THE REMALT FIRED FIRST TIME AND STEVE ACCELERATED TO WHERE THE DAZED COLONEL ST. HILLERY WAS STANDING...



THEN THEY WERE AWAY, DRIVING FURIOUSLY DOWN THE STREET, HEADED SOUTH...



IN THE MIDDLE OF DISASTER, HOWEVER, THE COLONEL COULD NOT FORGET HIS CODE OF HONOR.



IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, COLONEL ST. HILLERY AND HIS MEN FOUGHT A HOPELESS BARRAGE ACTION AGAINST THE INVADING GERMANS.



EVENTUALLY THEY CAME TO THE TOWN OF ST. HILLERY. HOME OF THE COLONEL, WHO WAS "LORD OF THE MANOR" THEREABOUTS.

WE CAN BLOW THIS BRIDGE, SERGEANT, BUT I'D LIKE TO BLOW THAT DAM. UNFORTUNATELY IT'D DROWN THE TOWN IF WE DID!

IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY WAY WE'LL REALLY DELAY THE JERRIES, SIR.



STEVE IMMEDIATELY SET HIS MEN TO WORK MINING THE BRIDGE. BUT TO HIS SURPRISE, THE COLONEL ORDERED HIM TO STOP!

THAT BRIDGE IS VITAL TO MY TOWNSPEOPLE. THEY MUST CROSS IT TO SELL THEIR PRODUCE IN THE NEIGHBOURING TOWN...

B-BUT THIS IS WAR, COLONEL! THE GERMANS MUST BE STOPPED!



LOOKING HALF-ASHAMED, DEEPLY DISTURBED, THE COLONEL TOLD STEVE THAT FOR FRANCE THE WAR WAS NEARLY OVER...

I HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT AN ARMISTICE IS EXPECTED AT ANY TIME. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE WOULD BE POINTLESS WASTE...

AN ARMISTICE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!



...BY THE COLONEL'S NEWS, STEVE RESOLVED TO ACT WITHOUT HIS AUTHORITY.



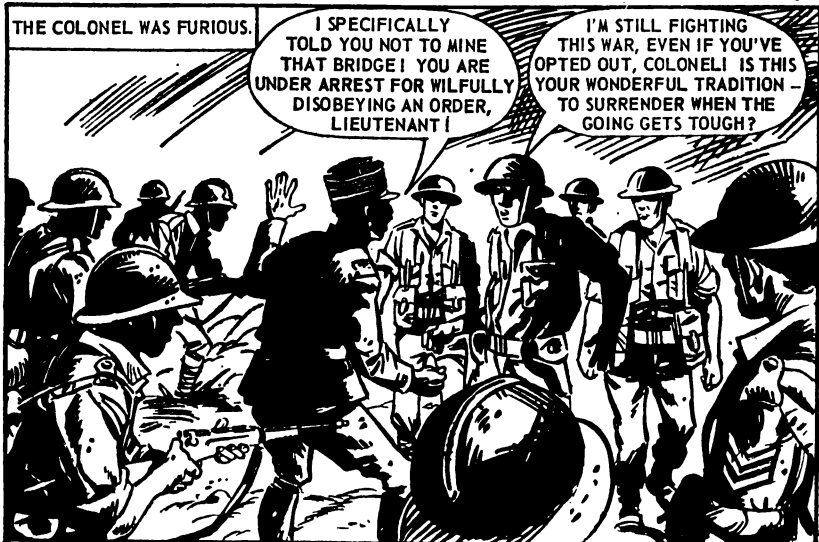
WHEN DARKNESS FELL, STEVE LED HIS MEN BACK TO THE BRIDGE AND THEY STARTED WIRING IT FOR DEMOLITION.

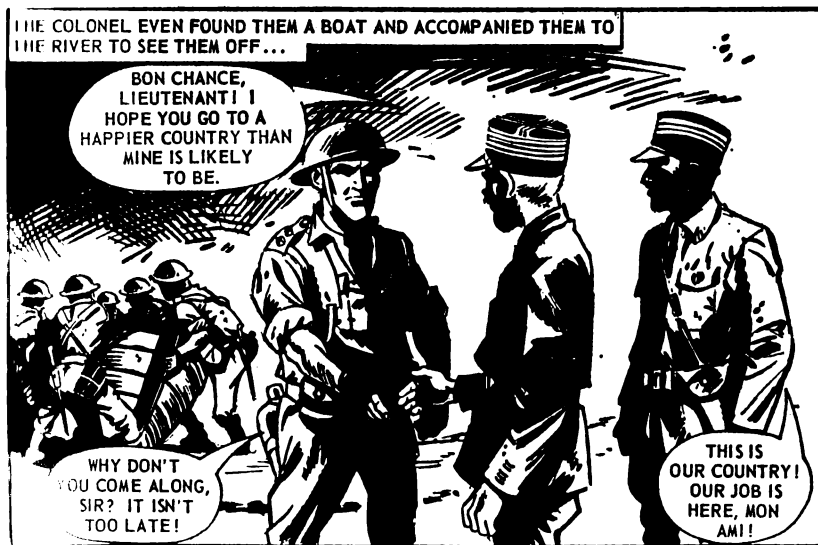


THE COLONEL EVIDENTLY ALREADY HAD HIS SUSPICIONS, HOWEVER – AND SUDDENLY BLAZING HEADLAMPS ILLUMINATED THE SCENE.



THE COLONEL WAS FURIOUS.





STEVE REVISED HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT THE COLONEL AS THEY ROWED ACROSS THE DARK WATERS OF THE RIVER.

HE MAY BE
A STARCHY OLD
DIEHARD, BUT HE'S A
MAN OF HONOUR
AS WELL!



AND THEN, SUDDENLY, A SEARCHLIGHT STABBED THE DARKNESS AND A HAIL OF MACHINE GUN BULLETS RAKED THE BOAT.

IT'S AN
AMBUSH! GET
OVERBOARD!

THAT
SNAKE OF A
COLONEL'S SOLD
US OUT TO THE
JERRIES!



THE DEATH CRIES OF THE ENGINEERS
WERE LOST IN THE HARSH CHATTERING
OF THE GUNS AS STEVE AND HIS
FELLOW PRISONERS WERE BORNE DOWNSTREAM
BY THE SWIFT CURRENT.



AFTER WHAT SEEMED AN AGE, THEY DRIFTED
IN TO THE BANK PRACTICALLY AT THE FEET
OF AN ASTOUNDED FARMWORKER.



THE FARMER FETCHED MEDICAL AID FOR MURPHY AND THEN HID THE TWO OF THEM IN HIS
BARN UNTIL MURPHY WAS FIT TO TRAVEL. THEY HAD SEVERAL NARROW ESCAPES...



WHEN MURPHY HAD RECOVERED SUFFICIENTLY, THE FARMER INTRODUCED THEM TO A FRIEND WHO HAD PROMISED TO TAKE THEM TO THE COAST IN HIS BARGE...



THEIR LUCK HELD. AFTER SEVERAL MORE DAYS THEY WERE EVENTUALLY BOUND FOR BRITAIN ABOARD A FISHING-BOAT.



PRIVATE MURPHY WAS WRONG, HOWEVER, FATE TOOK STEVE THOMPSON AND HIS ENGINEER COMPANY BACK TO FRANCE ON 'D' DAY PLUS TWO. BY THEN, STEVE WAS A CAPTAIN AND MURPHY A WARRANT OFFICER.



FATE ALSO TOOK THEM BACK TO ST. HILLERY, DRIVING THE RETREATING GERMANS BEFORE THEM THIS TIME. AS THEY NEARED THE TOWN, THE BRIGADIER SENT FOR STEVE...



STEVE AND HIS MEN WOULD ACCOMPANY
A PICKED FORCE OF ASSAULT TROOPS...

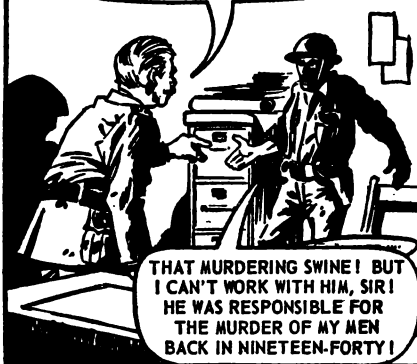
YOUR JOB WILL BE
TO LOCATE AND NEUTRALISE
EVERY EXPLOSIVE CHARGE ON THAT DAM.
YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST
AND THOROUGHLY.



THIS IS ONE JOB
I'LL REALLY LIKE, SIR.
A CHANCE TO SAVE
THOUSANDS OF LIVES INSTEAD
OF TAKING THEM!

BUT THE BRIGADIER'S NEXT WORDS HIT
STEVE LIKE A BLOW IN THE STOMACH.

YOU'LL BE GETTING
HELP FROM THE LOCAL
PARTISANS. THEY'RE ORGANISED
BY THE LOCAL SQUIRE - LE
COMTE DE ST. HILLERY.



THAT MURDERING SWINE! BUT
I CAN'T WORK WITH HIM, SIR!
HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE MURDER OF MY MEN
BACK IN NINETEEN-FORTY!

THE BRIGADIER KNEW ABOUT THE AMBUSH AND KILLING OF STEVE'S MEN BUT HE STERNLY
WARNED THE ENGINEER OFFICER NOT TO PLACE THE BLAME ON THE COLONEL.



HE'S PROVED A
GOOD PARTISAN LEADER.
I EXPECT YOU TO CARRY
OUT YOUR ORDERS
AND WORK WITH HIM -
UNDERSTAND?

YES, SIR!

I'D SOONER
WORK WITH A
RATTLESNAKE!



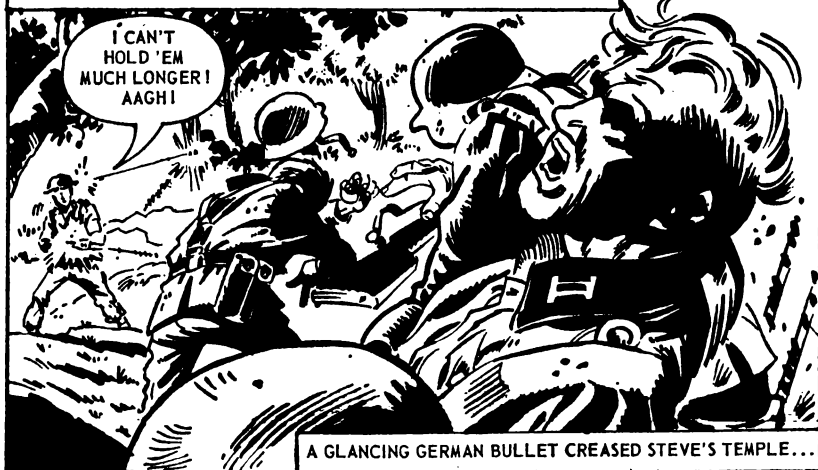
THAT EVENING STEVE AND HIS MEN, AND THE ASSAULT TROOPS, DROVE INTO THE HILLS, TOWARDS THE DAM.



SUDDENLY, A HAIL OF MACHINE GUN BULLETS SLASHED OUT FROM THE HILLSIDE AROUND THEM. THE WHOLE AREA CAME ALIVE WITH GERMANS...



STEVE HIMSELF FIRED FURIOUSLY AT THE ENEMY AS HIS MEN RAN FOR COVER - BUT HIS DEFIANT GESTURE COULD NOT LAST FOR LONG...



THE NEXT THING STEVE KNEW HE WAS IN A PRISON-LIKE ROOM WITH A BARRED WINDOW. AS THE MIST CLEARED FROM HIS BRAIN HE SAW COLONEL ST. HILLERY AT THE DOOR.

YOU MURDERING RAT! COME TO GLOAT, EH?

DON'T BE A FOOL!



RAGE RESTORED STEVE'S STRENGTH. HE FLUNG HIMSELF AT THE FRENCHMAN...

BY HEAVENS! YOU'LL PAY FOR THOSE MEN YOU MURDERED, COLONEL!

IDIOT! IT IS JACQUES WHO IS THE REAL TRAITOR!

AN INTERESTING BRAWL, EH, HER? HAUPTMANN?



BEWILDERED, STEVE THOMPSON STARED AT JACQUES ST. HILLERY...

STUPID ENGLISHMAN! DID YOU NOT REALISE HOW I HATED ALL YOUR KIND! YOU MURDERED MY FATHER AND BROKE MY MOTHER'S HEART!

THEN - IT WAS YOU WHO BETRAYED US - NOW AND IN 'FORTY!



VENOMOUSLY, JACQUES RELATED HOW HE SABOTAGED THEIR DETONATORS IN 1940, THEN TIPPED OFF THE GERMANS THAT THEY WERE ESCAPING FROM ST. HILLERY.



BESIDE HIMSELF WITH FURY, THE COLONEL BROKE LOOSE....



THE COLONEL'S ATTACK WAS SHORT-LIVED. HE WAS BRUTALLY FELLEED TO THE FLOOR.

THAT'S
ENOUGH! I
HAVE NOT FINISHED
WITH THEM
YET!



JACQUES ORDERED THE PAIR TO BE BOUND TO A WATER PIPE WHICH RAN ALONG THE WALL OF THE CELLAR...

IN A SHORT WHILE
THE DAM WILL BLOW-UP.
WE HAVE WARNED THOSE WHOM
WE WISH TO SAVE, THE REST,
INCLUDING YOURSELVES,
WILL DROWN!

YOU-YOU
WOULD DROWN
A WHOLE
TOWN!

HE'S A
MADMAN!



THEY WERE LEFT ALONE. THE COLONEL EXPLAINED HOW HE HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED IN THE CELLAR OF HIS OWN CHATEAU. WHEN STEVE HAD FIRST SEEN HIM, HE HAD BEEN ABOUT TO ESCAPE, USING A KEY WHICH JACQUES DID NOT KNOW HIS UNCLE HAD. NOW THEY MUST ESCAPE - OR DIE! TIMING THEIR EFFORTS TOGETHER, THEY BEGAN TO TUG AT THE OLD PIPE.



THE OLD PIPE BROKE INTO SEVERAL PIECES. USING ONE OF THEM, THE COLONEL ATTACKED THE BARS AT THE WINDOW - BUT THE NOISE BROUGHT A GERMAN GUARD TO THE DOOR...



DESPERATELY, STEVE SWUNG THE PIECE OF PIPE HE WAS HOLDING AND THE GUARD WENT DOWN...



QUICKLY THEY SEIZED THE GUARD'S KEYS AND HIS GUN AND RELEASED THE OTHER CAPTIVE PARTISANS.



BY THIS TIME, THE SHOOTING HAD DRAWN GUARDS FROM ALL OVER THE CHATEAU. THE ESCAPED PRISONERS WERE SLOWLY DRIVEN INTO A CORNER...



STEVE ASKED THE COLONEL IF ANY OF THE CARS WERE IN WORKING ORDER...



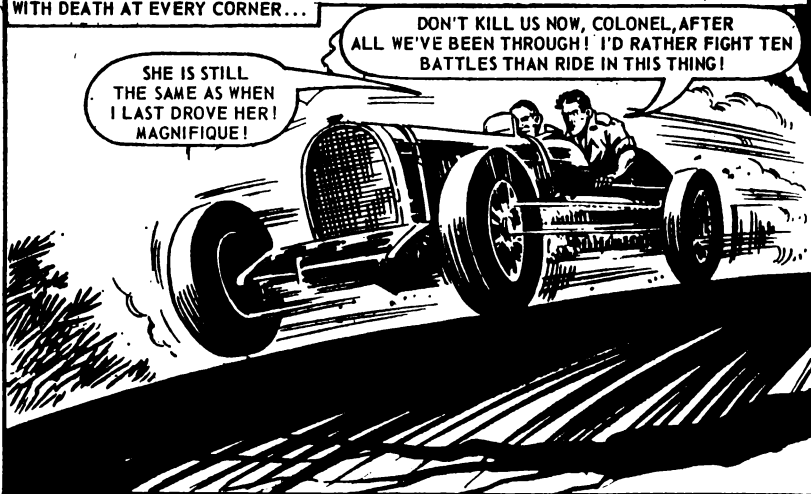
THE COLONEL TRIED THE ENGINE, WHICH FIRED AFTER SEVERAL TRIES...



THE DOORS WERE FLUNG OPEN – AND THE OLD RACER CHARGED OUT, SCATTERING THE BESIEGING GERMANS LEFT AND RIGHT....



THE DRIVE TO THE DAM WAS ONE OF THE MOST HAIR-RAISING EXPERIENCES OF STEVE'S LIFE. THE COLONEL REALLY PUT HIS FOOT DOWN ALONG THE NARROW TWISTING ROADS, DICING WITH DEATH AT EVERY CORNER...



MEANWHILE, STEVE'S MEN, TOGETHER WITH THE ASSAULT TROOPS, HAD LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON THE DAM, BUT WERE PINNED DOWN BY INTENSIVE MACHINE GUN FIRE.

WE MUST GET TO THAT CONTROL-HOUSE, SIR, BEFORE THEY HAVE TIME TO FIRE THEIR CHARGES!

EASIER SAID THAN DONE! IF ONLY WE HAD A COUPLE OF TANKS!

THERE'S SOMETHING COMING UP THE ROAD FROM THE VALLEY, SIR! GOIN' LIKE THE 'OUNDS OF 'ELL!

LIKE AN AVENGING FURY, THE OLD RACER HURTLED THROUGH THE ATTACKERS' LINE - STRAIGHT AT THE GERMAN MACHINE GUNS STRADDLING THE ROAD...

BEGORRAH - IT'S THE CAPTAIN - AND COLONEL ST. HILLERY! THERE'S YOUR TANK, SIR!

THIS IS OUR CHANCE! LET'S GET AFTER 'EM, MEN!

IN MOMENTS THEY WERE ON THE ROAD TO THE DAM, WITH THE CONTROL-HOUSE TWO HUNDRED YARDS AHEAD OF THEM.

THE JERRIES ARE HERE ALREADY! LET'S JUST PRAY THEY HAVEN'T PRIMED THE CHARGES!

YOU TAKE CARE OF THE EXPLOSIVE, CAPTAIN - I WILL TAKE CARE OF JACQUES!

SO INTENT ON THEIR MURDEROUS TASK WERE THE GERMANS THAT THEY DID NOT NOTICE THE RAIDERS' APPROACH...

DONNERWETTER! OUR PRISONERS!

RETRIBUTION HAS CAUGHT UP WITH YOU, JACQUES!

SHOOT THEM, YOU FOOLS!

DESPERATELY, JACQUES MADE A DASH FOR THE DOOR, AMID THE CHAOS AND CONFUSION IN THE CONTROL ROOM. BUT THE COLONEL WAS NOT FAR BEHIND HIM FOR ALL HIS YEARS...



BUT JACQUES FOUGHT BACK LIKE A CORNERED RAT...



SUDDENLY, JACQUES LOST HIS BALANCE. HE CLUTCHED AT THE COLONEL - IN VAIN...



HAVING DISPOSED OF THE GERMANS AT THE CONTROL-HOUSE, STEVE QUICKLY SET ABOUT TRACING AND NEUTRALISING THE EXPLOSIVE CHARGES. AT LAST IT WAS DONE AND THE TOWN OF ST. HILLERY WAS SAFE.

I OWE YOU
A SINCERE APOLOGY,
COLONEL. YOU WERE
NOT THE MURDERING
TRAITOR I TOOK
YOU FOR!

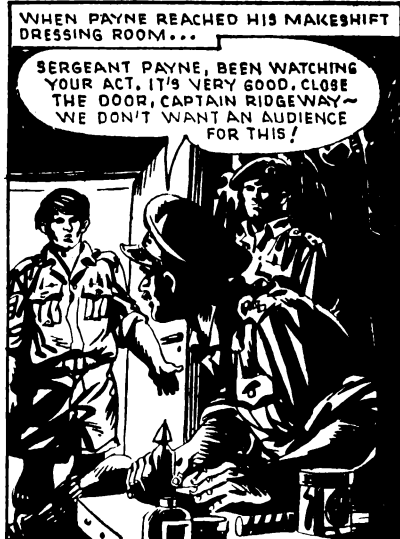
AND YOU
WERE NOT THE
BLUNDERING AMATEUR
I BELIEVED YOU TO BE, CAPTAIN!
YOU AND YOUR MEN ARE FINE
SOLDIERS - THE FINEST!

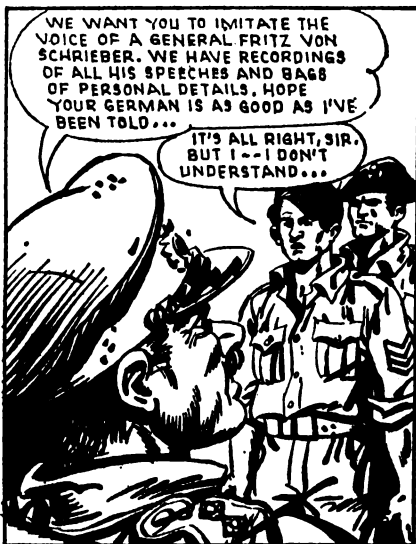
BEJABERS!
PRAISE LIKE
THAT FROM THE
COLONEL IS
EQUIVALENT TO
THE CROIX DE
GUERRE!

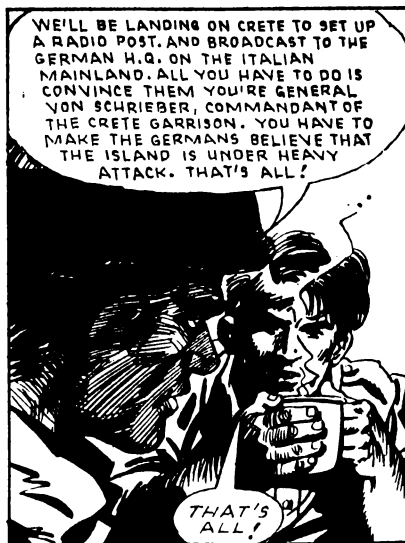


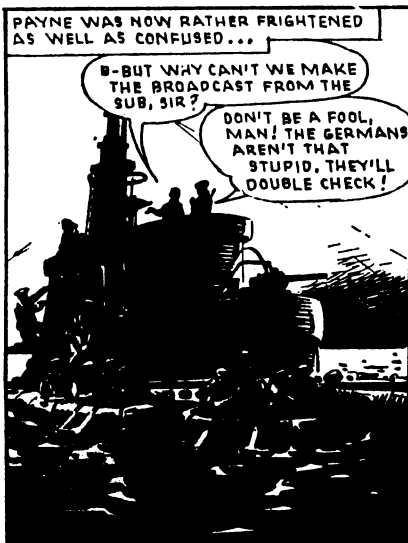
COMMAND PERFORMANCE

BERT PAYNE WAS AN ENTERTAINER, SO WHEN HE JOINED UP, THEY MADE HIM SERGEANT AND PUT HIM IN AN ENSA TROOP...









ON THE HOUR EXACTLY, THEY HEARD THE DISTANT RUMBLE OF BOMBING.



RIGHT ON TIME.
WE'D BETTER CHECK
THAT THEY MADE
A GOOD JOB OF IT.
YOU LEAD THE
WAY, PEPE.

BERT PAYNE SPENT SEVENTY NAIL-BITING MINUTES WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF CAPTAIN RIDGEWAY...



THE R.A.F. DID THEIR BIT! TAKE JERRY
DAYS TO PATCH UP THAT RADIO AGAIN.
THERE ISN'T ANOTHER LONG RANGE
TRANSMITTER ON THIS ISLAND -
EXCEPT OURS! READY, PAYNE?

I-I THINK
SO, SIR.

LATER THAT SAME DAY, A GERMAN H.Q. BASE IN SICILY PICKED UP AN URGENT CALL.



ACHTUNG! THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
WE ARE UNDER HEAVY ATTACK.
PARATROOPS ARE DROPPING...

HERR HAUPTMANN!
A RED ALERT
FROM Q.S. TWO!

HIMMEL!
CALL THE
FIELD MARSHAL
IMMEDIATELY!

AND ON CRETE, BERT PAYNE FELT EXHAUSTED AFTER THE MOST EXACTING PERFORMANCE OF HIS CAREER...



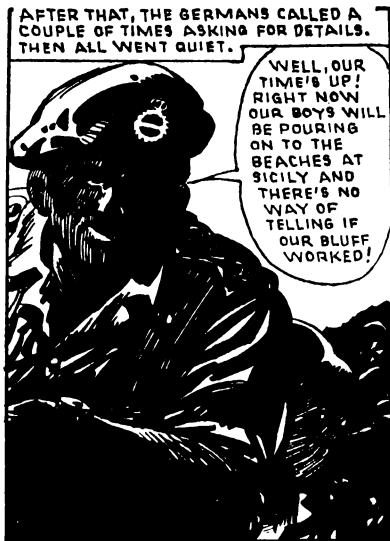
I EXPECT YOU ARE WONDERING WHAT ALL THESE ANTICS ARE ABOUT. IN ANOTHER EIGHT HOURS, OUR TROOPS WILL BE HITTING THE SICILY BEACHES. YOUR JOB WAS TO MAKE THE ENEMY THINK THE ATTACK IS COMING *HERE!*

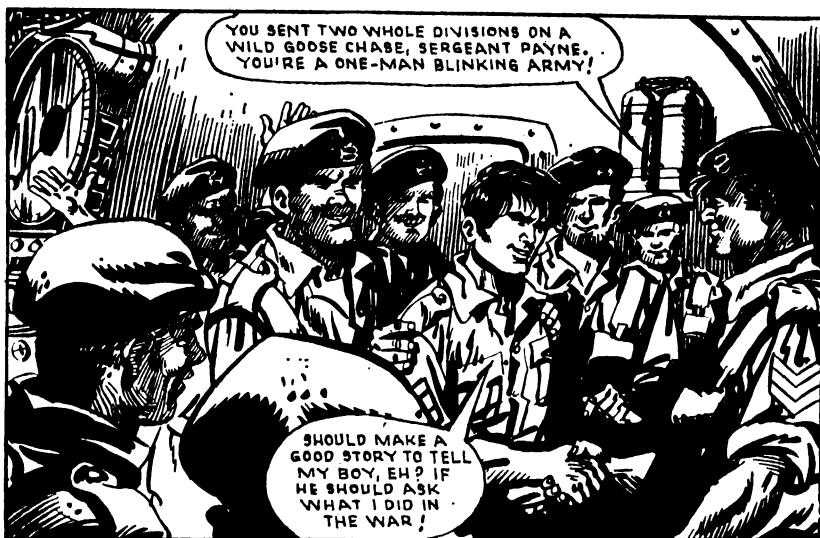


WE KNOW JERRY HAS TWO CRACK DIVISIONS ON SICILY. IF WE CAN DIVERT THEM HERE ~ TO STOP AN INVASION...

NOW I UNDERSTAND! AND WE STAY HERE TILL OUR TROOPS HAVE LANDED IN SICILY, I SUPPOSE!







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